(b) No, Sir,

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Economic agreement with Gulf countries

2977. SHRIMATI S.G.INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) had demanded of the Government to implement a framework agreement of economic cooperation between India and the Member States of Gulf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;and

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of such agreement, Indian exporters have to move their export proceeds to these countries at much higher import duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) ASSOCHAM have suggested that the feasibility of entering into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Gulf Cooperation Council(GCC) countries, as envisaged in the Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation, may be evaluated.

(c) The extent of duty concessions for exports from India under FTA will be ascertainable only after finalization of the Agreement.

Site offered by Andhra Pradesh Government for holding ITOP exhibition

2978. SHRI S.M.LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has offered site for the establishment of an exhibition site by ITPO in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ITPO has any plans to select a site in the State to organize trade fairs on a regular basis;